

Birds of the National Garden



Since its creation in 2006, the National Garden has provided habitat

for all sorts of wildlife. More than 30 bird species have been recorded in the garden to date. These birds are an important part of the garden, and are great indicators of its health and ecological role. We often think of plants as useful only to humans, without thinking of the habitat they provide for local wildlife.

Covering three acres of downtown Washington, D.C., the National Garden serves as a lush haven in the midst of the city. The native plants in the Regional Garden give birds food and shelter, as natural areas in the mostly urban environments of D.C. recede.

The birds of the National Garden list is designed to serve as a companion to the existing plant information in the garden, providing a more complete view of the garden's inhabitants and the relationships between them. Understanding how plants, animals, and their environments interact is necessary to conserving and better understanding the natural world.

Bird Common Name	Scientific Name	Companion Plant	Scientific Name	Relationship
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	roosting site, nesting site, food
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	trumpet honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	food source
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	American black elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	food source
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	food, dispersal, shelter
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Eastern red-cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	nesting
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	shelter
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Atlantic white-cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	food source (berries)
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	food source
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	shelter
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	attracts mourning doves, a food
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	goldenrod	<i>Solidago erecta</i>	contains fly larvae, which are a f
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	coastal serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier obovalis</i>	food source
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	food source
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	food source
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	pitch pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	nesting, hunting ground for inse
Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Shelter
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	blackberry	<i>Rubus 'Shawnee'</i>	food source
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Carolina willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	Nesting

Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	sunflower	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	food source
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	blackberry	<i>Rubus 'Shawnee'</i>	food source
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	sunflower	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	food source
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	shelter
Mallard Duck	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	food source
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	food, dispersal, shelter
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	food, dispersal, shelter
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	common spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	dispersal
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	common buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	attracts insects for food
Purple Finch	<i>Haemorhous purpureus</i>	tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	food source
Red Wing Black Bird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	food, shelter
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	loblolly pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	nesting, food
Red-Tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Virginia pine	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	shelter
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	sunflower	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	food source
Ruby Throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	cardinal-flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	pollination
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Carolina willow	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	Nesting
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	fuji cherry	<i>Prunus incisa</i>	food source
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	shelter, nesting

Source URL: <https://www.usbg.gov/NGbirds>